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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 088053
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DRAFTED BY: S/S-S:MR. SEBASTIAN:BABS
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 088053

NODIS
WHITE HOUSE - FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI

FOLLOWING REPEAT RABAT 2133 ACTION SECSTATE APR 19, 1977

QTE S E C R E T RABAT 2133

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PFOR MO CG
SUBJECT: MOROCCAN TROOPS TO ZAIRE

REF: (A) STATE 78948, (B) RABAT 1968, (C) DAO IR 6 865007477

1. SHIPMENT OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT ACCOMPANYING MOROCCAN TROOPS SENT TO ZAIRE HAS NOW APPARENTLY BEEN COMPLETED, AND WE STILL HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF ANY EMBARGOED U.S.-ORIGIN MATERIAL BEING INVOLVED.

2. WE NOTE APRIL 14 AFP REPORT DATELINED KOLWEZI, CARRIED SAME DAY IN SEMI-OFFICIAL MAROC SOIR, THAT MOROCCAN TROOPS WHICH HAD DISEMBARKED IN KOLWEZI WERE EQUIPPED WITH U.S. M-16 RIFLES.
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WE HAVE NO RPT NO CONFIRMATION OF THIS REPORT HERE. MOROCCO BOUGHT 100 M-16 RIFLES IN 1973 THROUGH FMS, WITH STANDARD CLAUSES ON DEFENSIVE USE AND THIRD COUNTRY TRANSFER. VERBAL ASSURANCES WERE CONVEYED FROM THE PALACE THAT THESE RIFLES WERE STRICTLY FOR THE PALACE GUARD AND WOULD NOT BE USED BY THE ARMY. MOROCCO BOUGHT AN ADDITIONAL 1,000 M-16S IN 1976 AND 2,500 IN 1977 ON COMMERCIAL CONTRACT. WE DO NOT HAVE COPIES

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OF THE CONTRACTS. THE LIMITED INFORMATION IN MUSLO FILES
ON THESE COMMERCIAL CONTRACTS GIVES NO INDICATION OF RESTRICTIONS
ON GOM USE OF THESE WEAPONS. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT
MOROCCAN INFANTRY UNITS ARE ALSO EQUIPPED WITH BELGIAN
"FABRIQUE NATIONALE" RIFLES, WHICH RESEMBLE THE M-16 AND
MIGHT BE CONFUSED BY AN UNTRAINED OBSERVER.

3. DATT SOURCE (REFTEL C) HAS REPORTED THAT AMERICAN ORIGIN
TRUCKS WERE SHIPPED TO ZAIRE. HOWEVER, AS NOTED RABAT 1901,
SALES CONTRACTS FOR A.M. GENERAL VEHICLES DO NOT CONTAIN
RESTRICTIONS ON THIRD COUNTRY TRNASFER OR MOROCCAN USE.

4. THIS ASSESSMENT IS BASED UPON CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALL
CONCERNED ELEMENTS OF COUNTRY TEAM.
ANDERSON
UNQTE VANCE

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